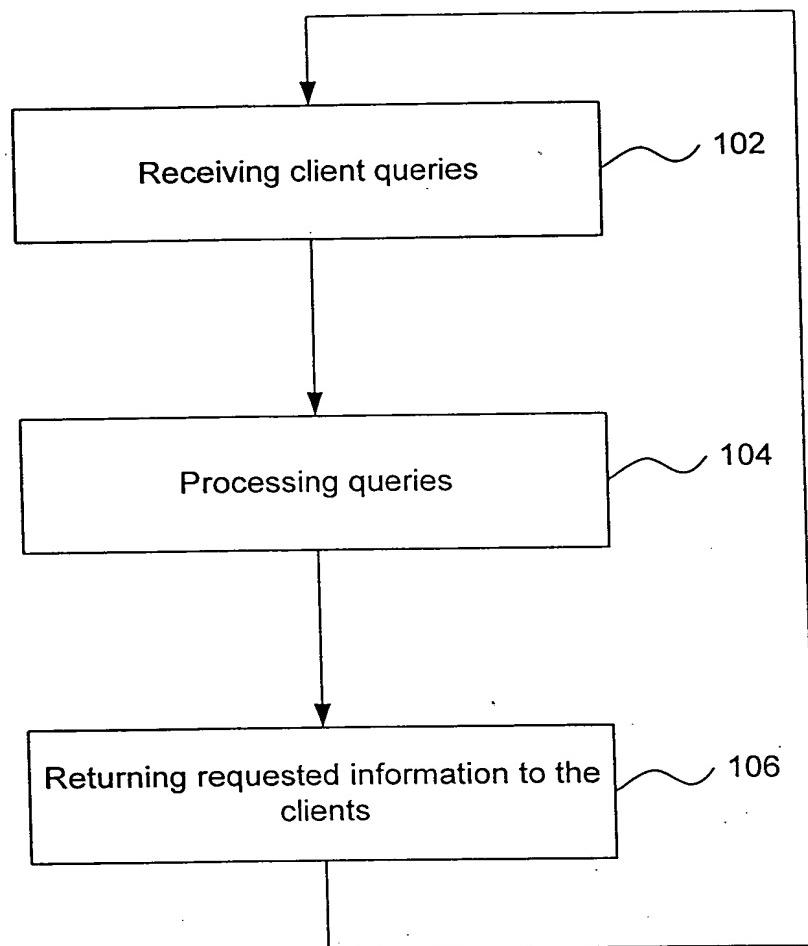
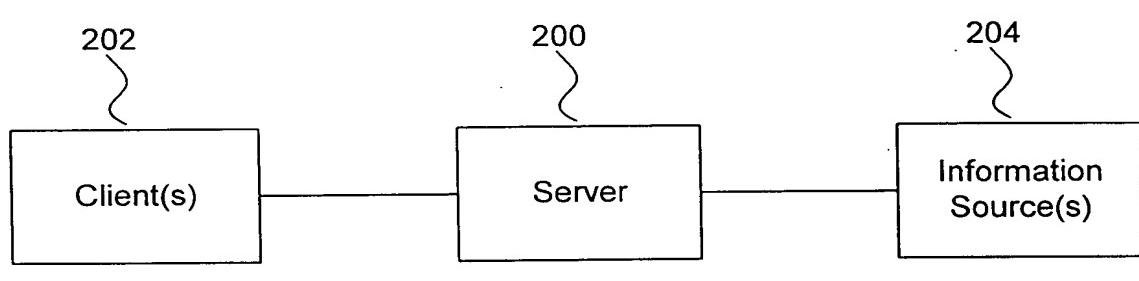


100

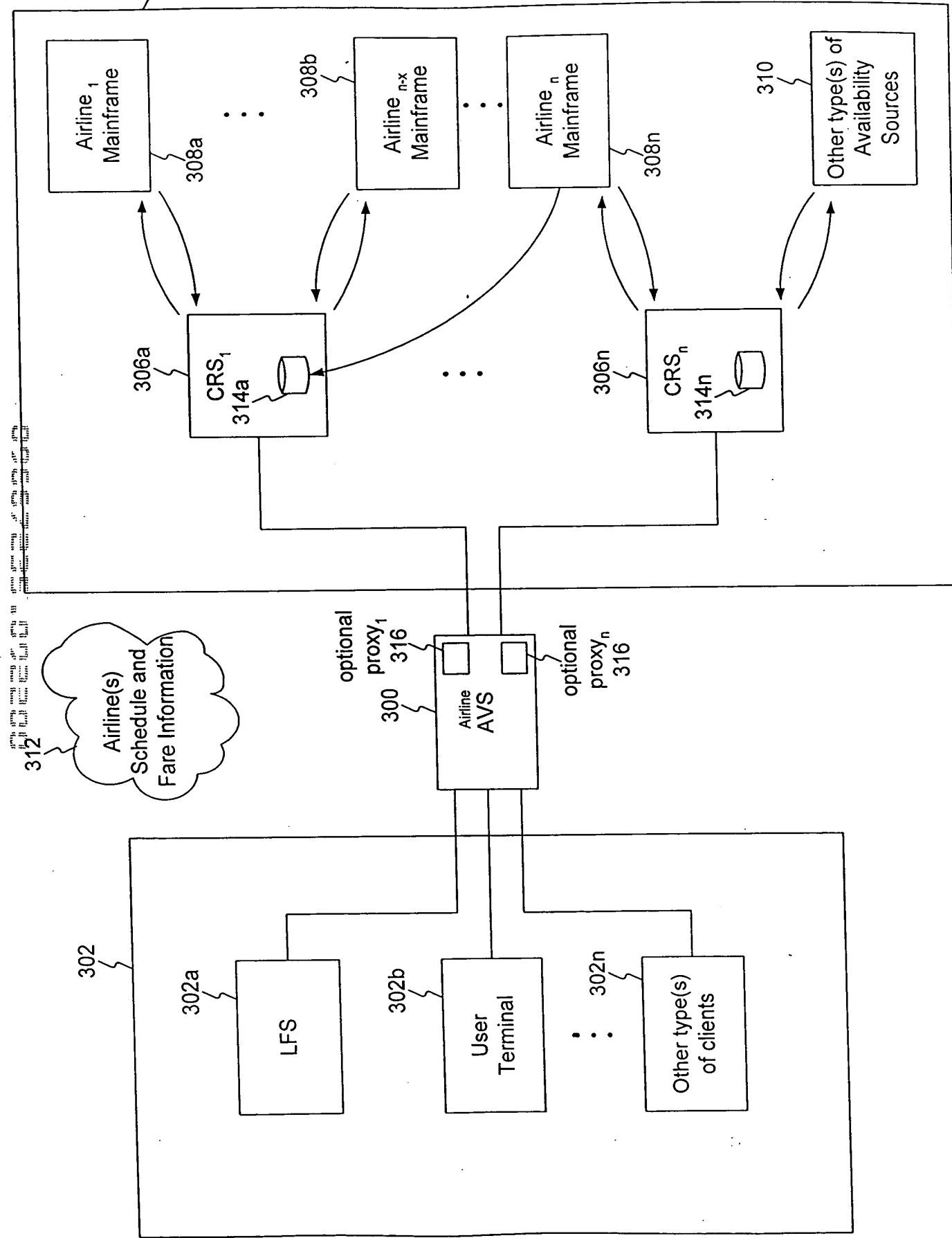


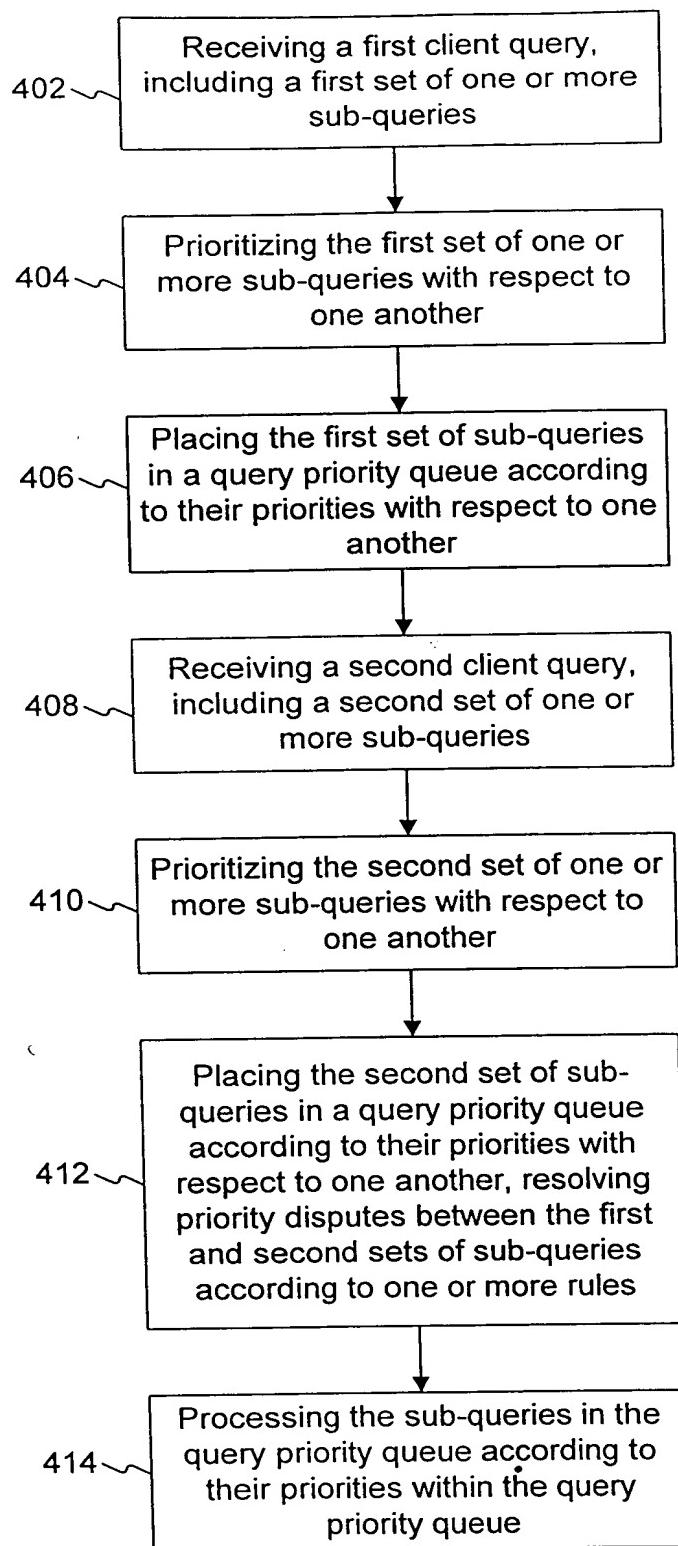
**FIG. 1**



**FIG. 2**

FIG. 3





**FIG. 4A**

412

416

Placing the second set of sub-queries in a query priority queue according to their priorities with respect to one another, resolving priority disputes between the first and second sets of sub-queries based, at least in part, on a time of receipt.

412

418

Placing the second set of sub-queries in a query priority queue according to their priorities with respect to one another, resolving priority disputes between the first and second sets of sub-queries based, at least in part, on a client identity.

412

419

Placing the second set of sub-queries in a query priority queue according to their priorities with respect to one another, resolving disputes between priorities of the first and second sets of sub-queries based on a time of receipt of the first and second queries, resolving any remaining disputes so that higher priority sub-queries of both clients are processed before a lower priority query of either client is processed.

**FIG. 4D**

Client 1  
Query (Q1)

Priority

Sub-Query 1	1
Sub-Query 2	2
Sub-Query 3	3
⋮	⋮
Sub-Query i	k

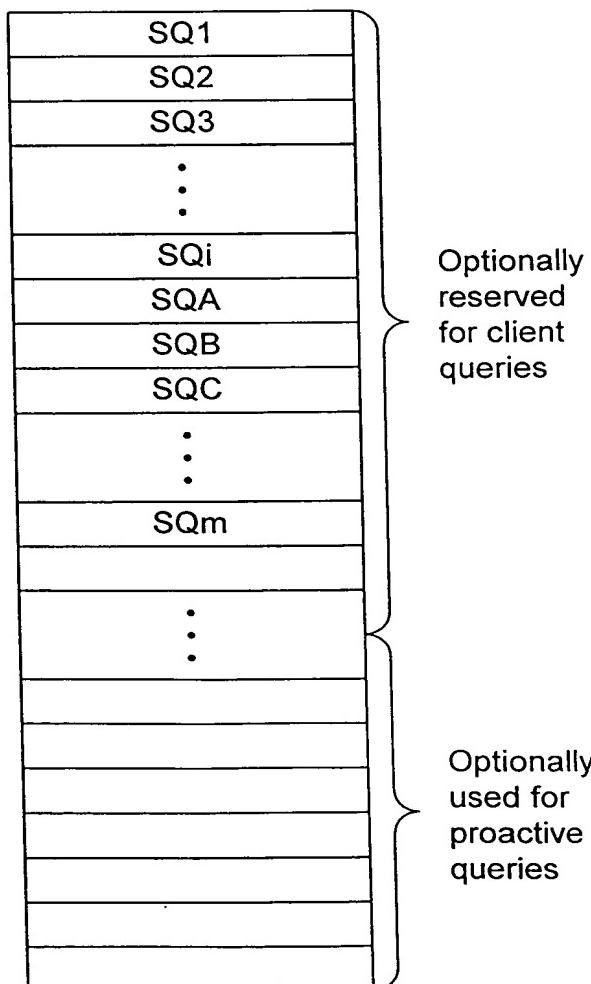
**FIG. 5**

Client 2  
Query (Q2)

Sub-Query A	1
Sub-Query B	2
Sub-Query C	3
⋮	⋮
Sub-Query n	m

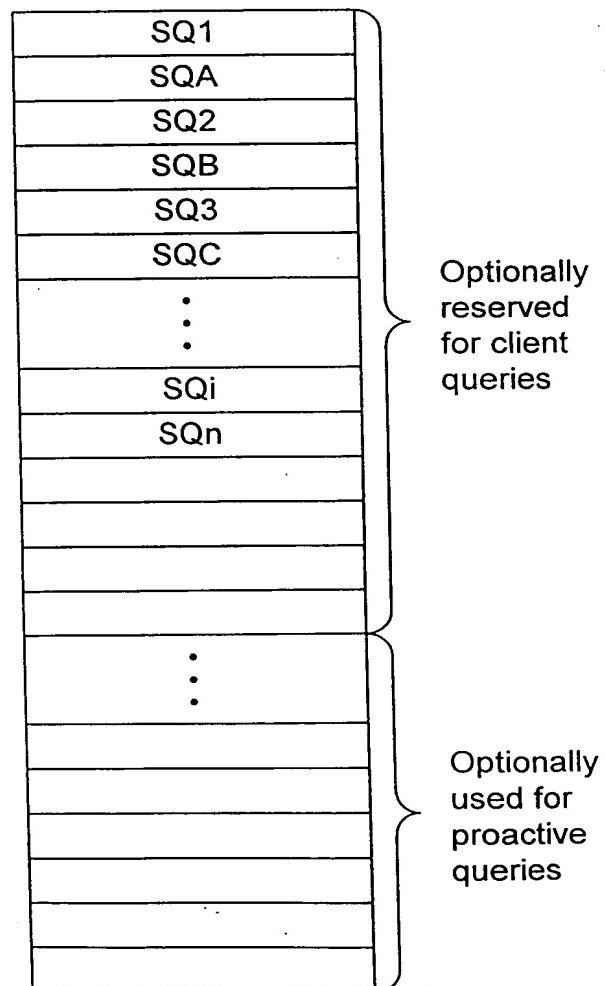
**FIG. 6**

Case 1: Q1 has higher priority than Q2

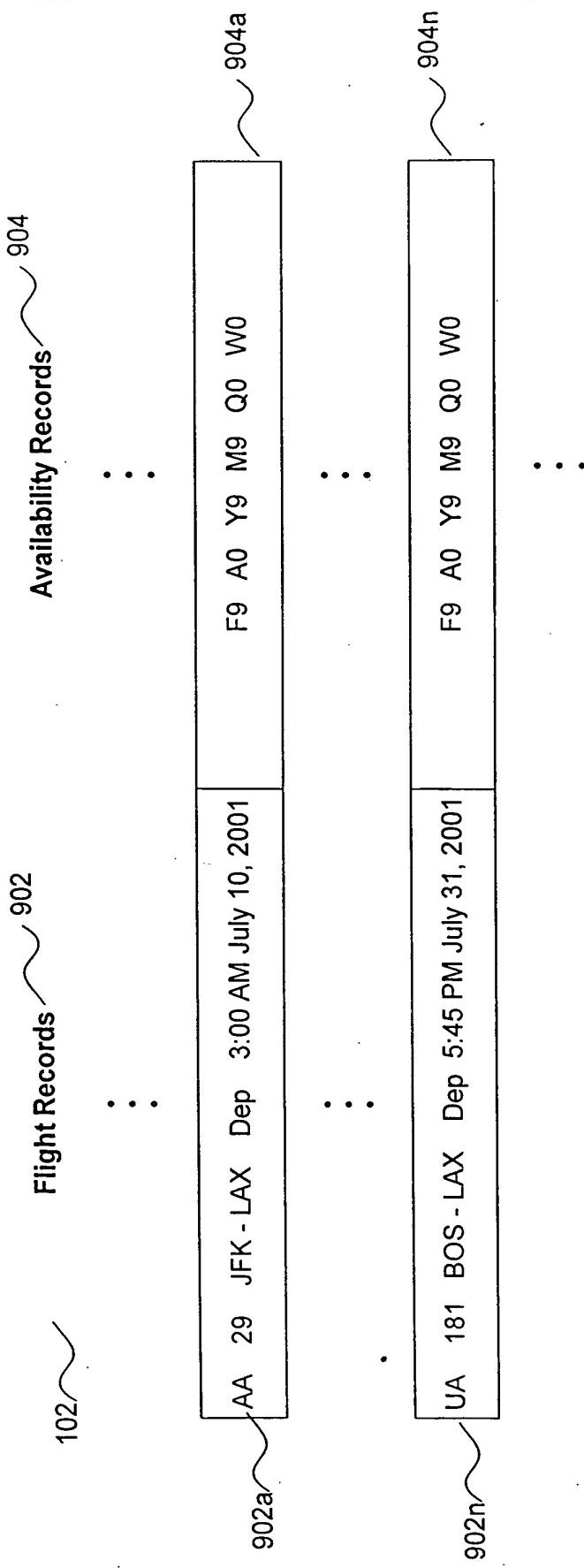


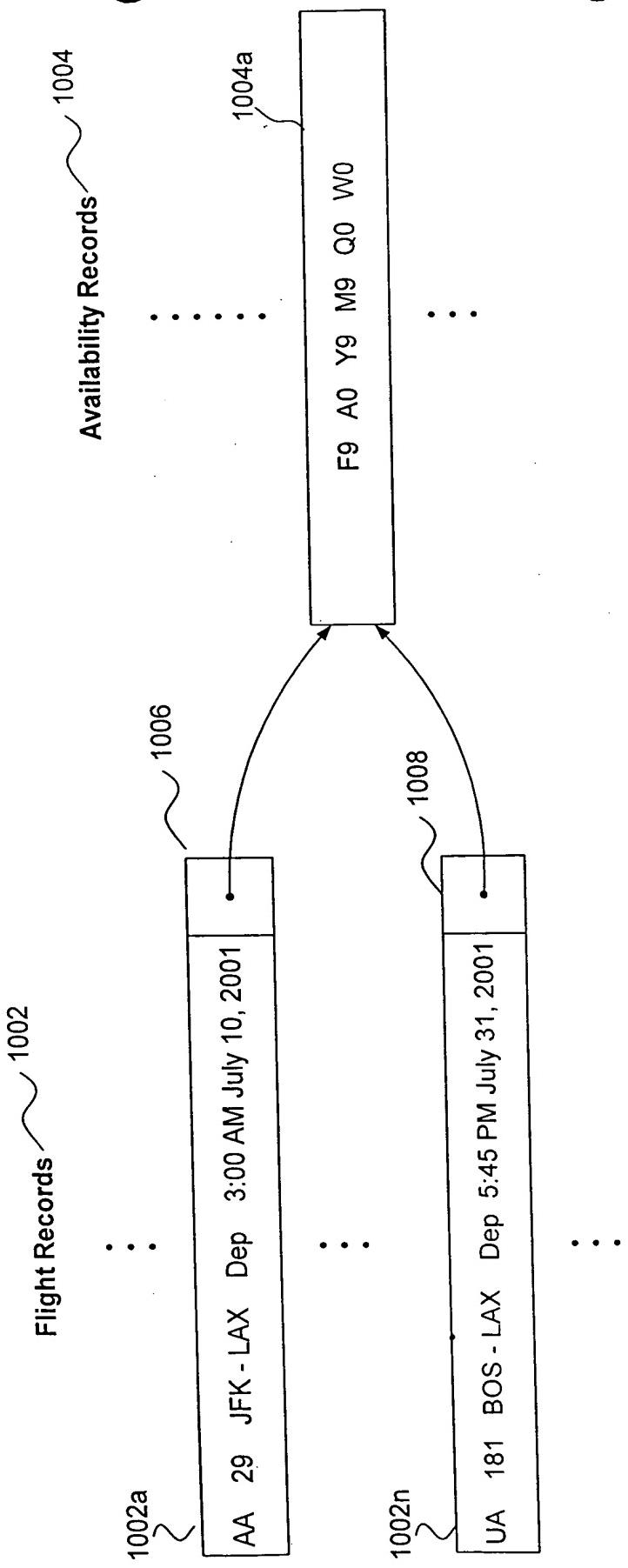
**FIG. 7**

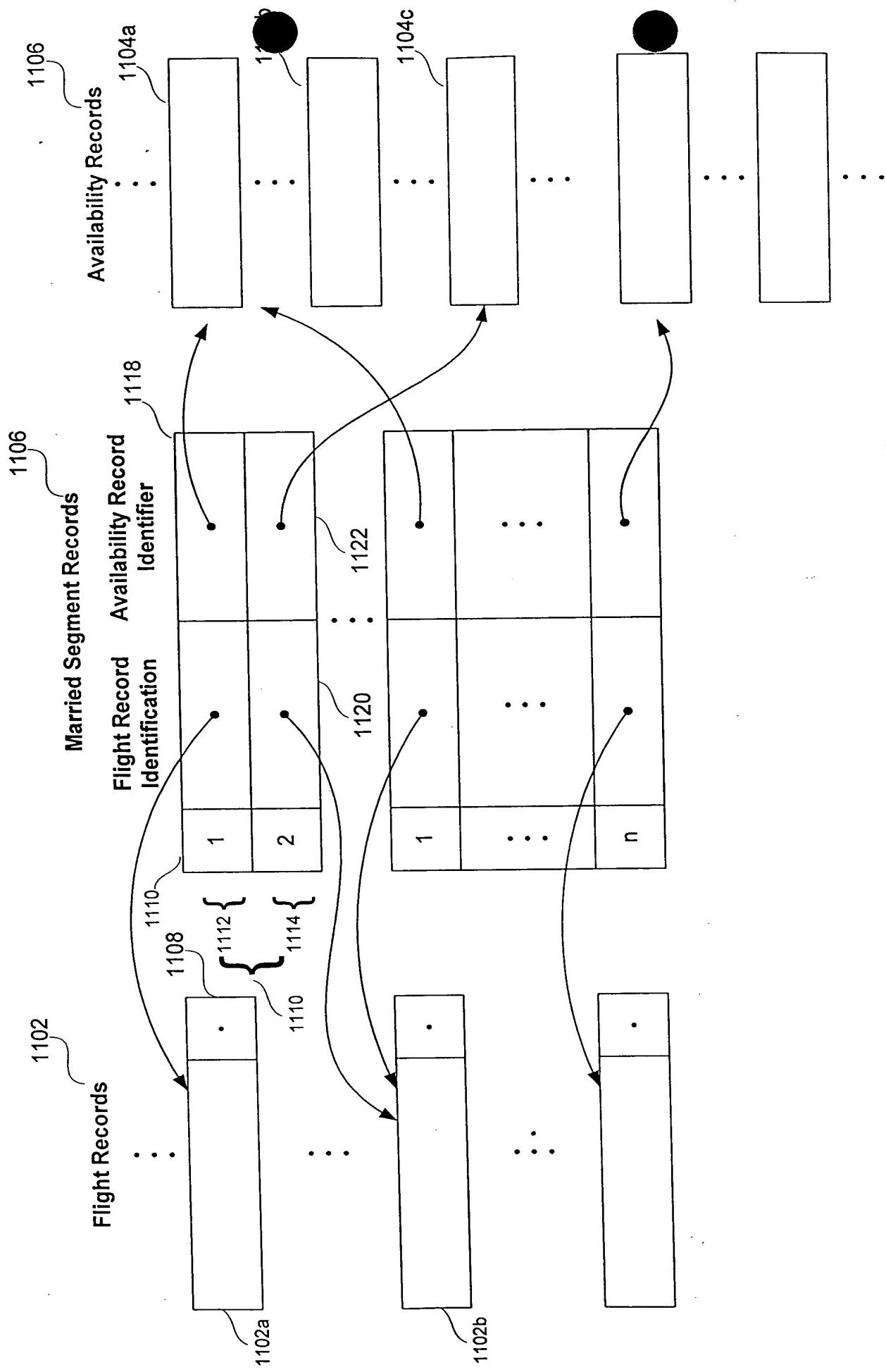
Case 2: Q1 and Q2 have equal priorities



**FIG. 8**

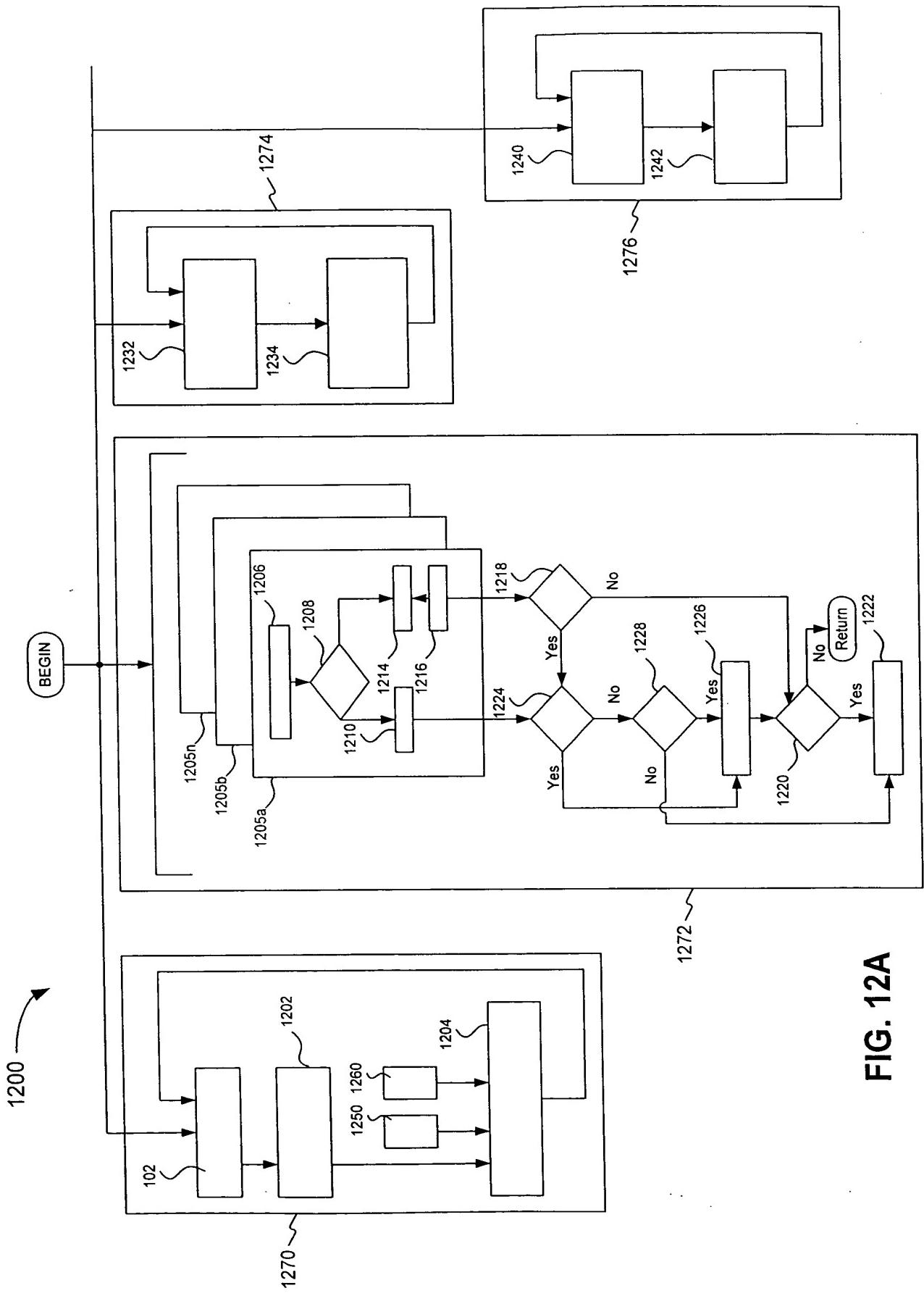
**FIG. 9**

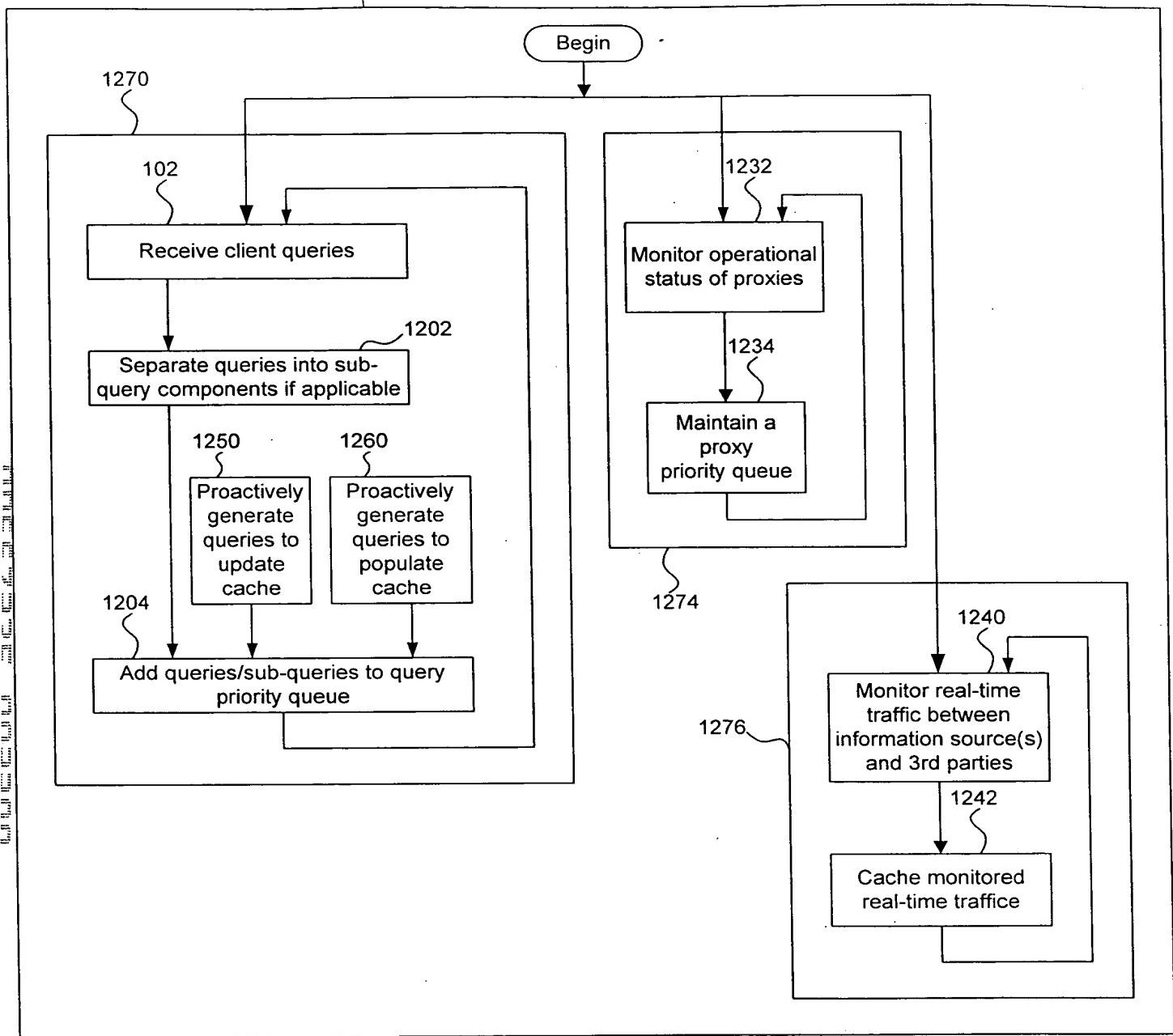
**FIG. 10**



**FIG. 11**

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**FIG. 12A**



**FIG. 12B**

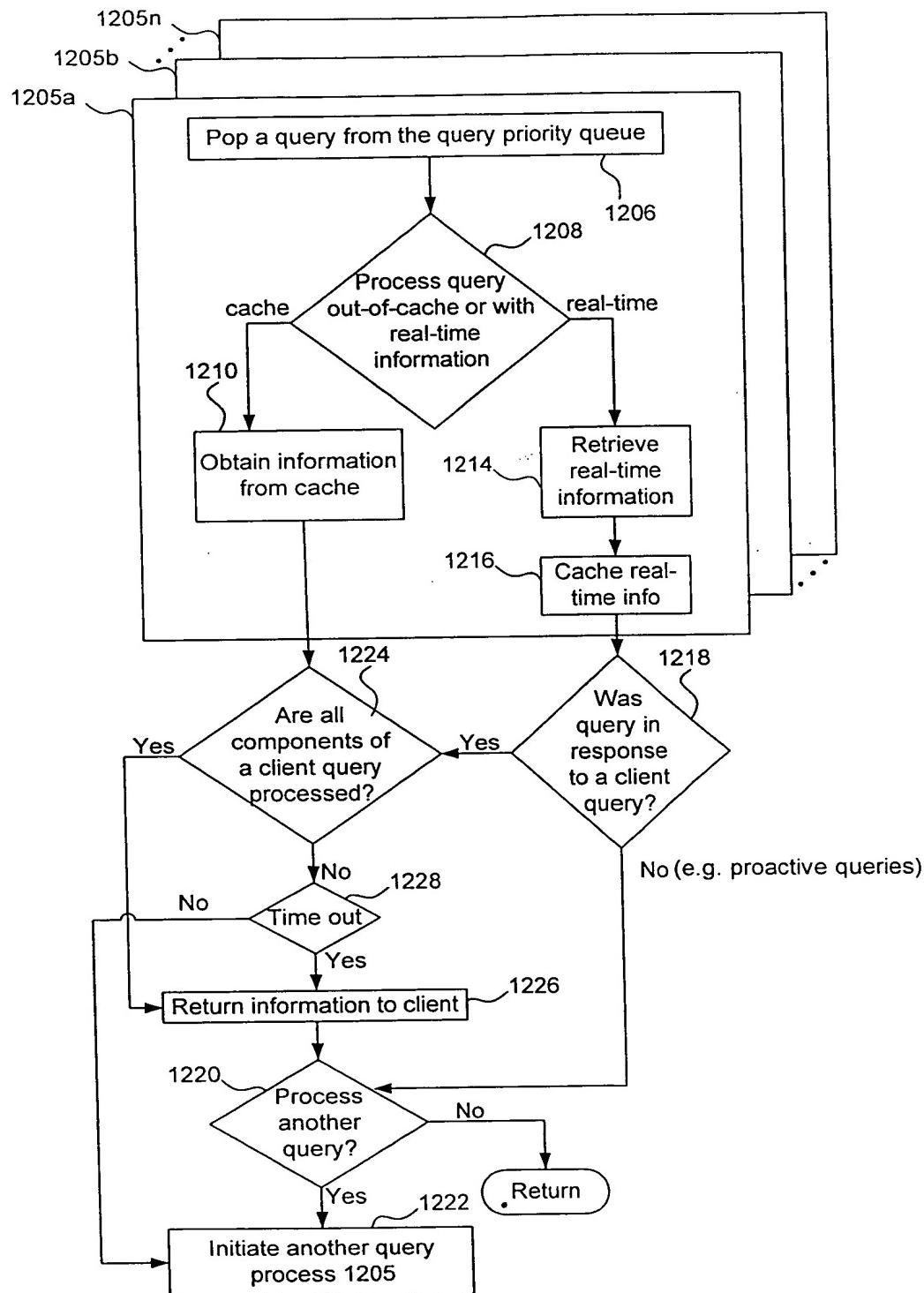
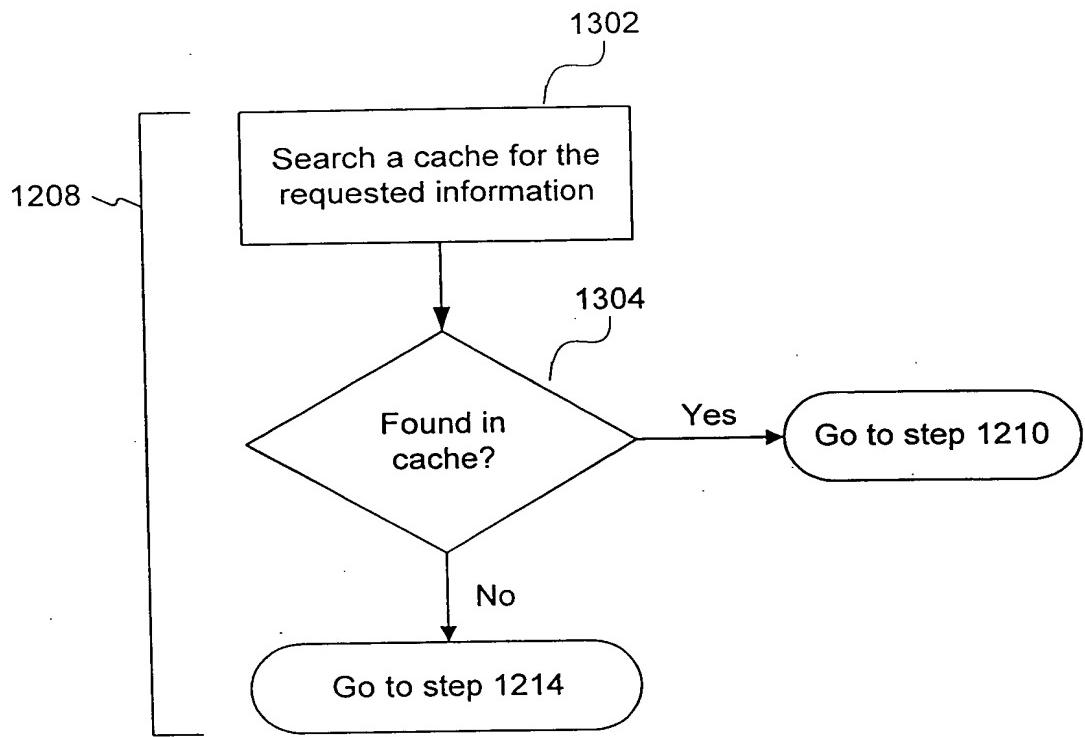
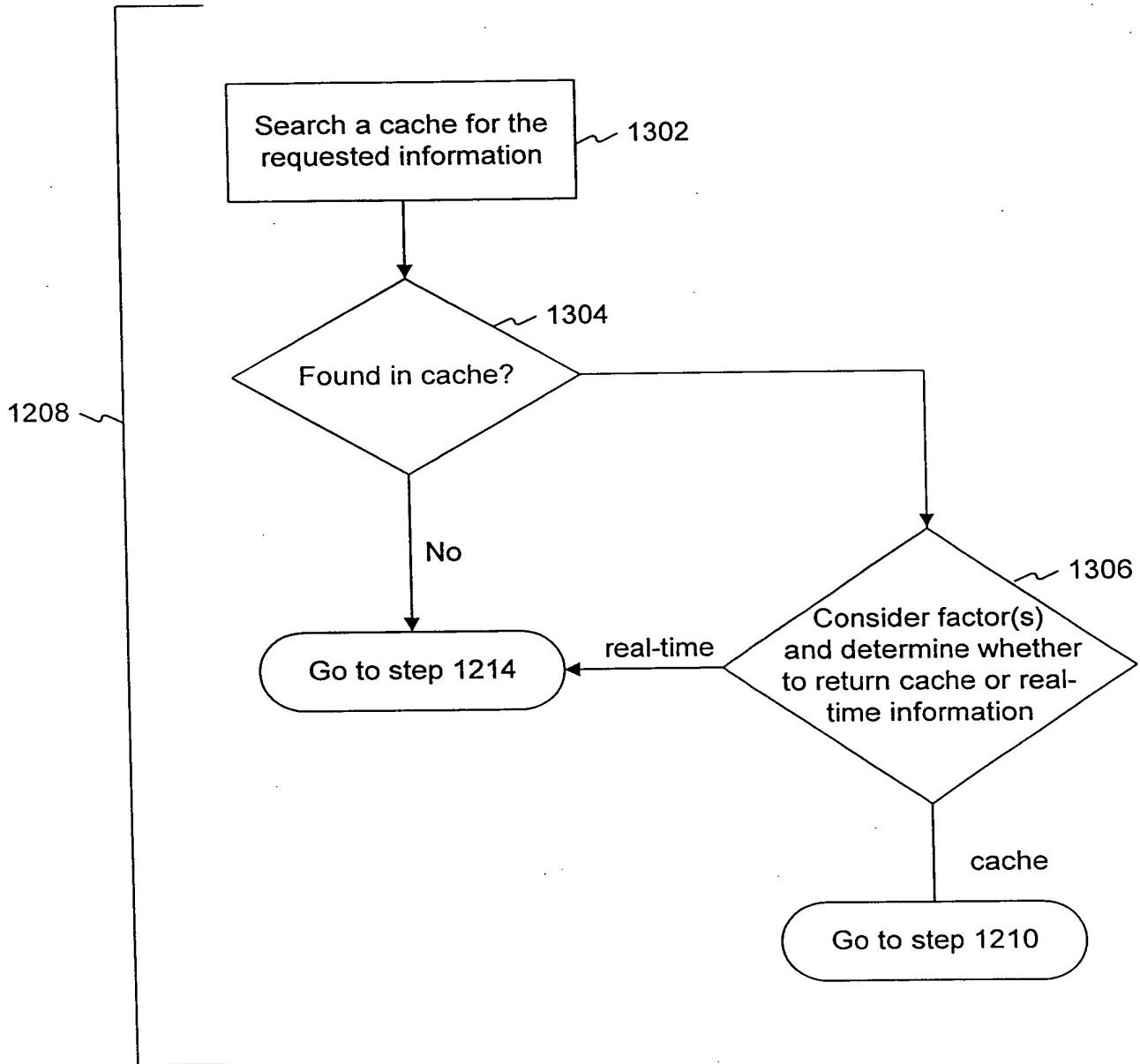


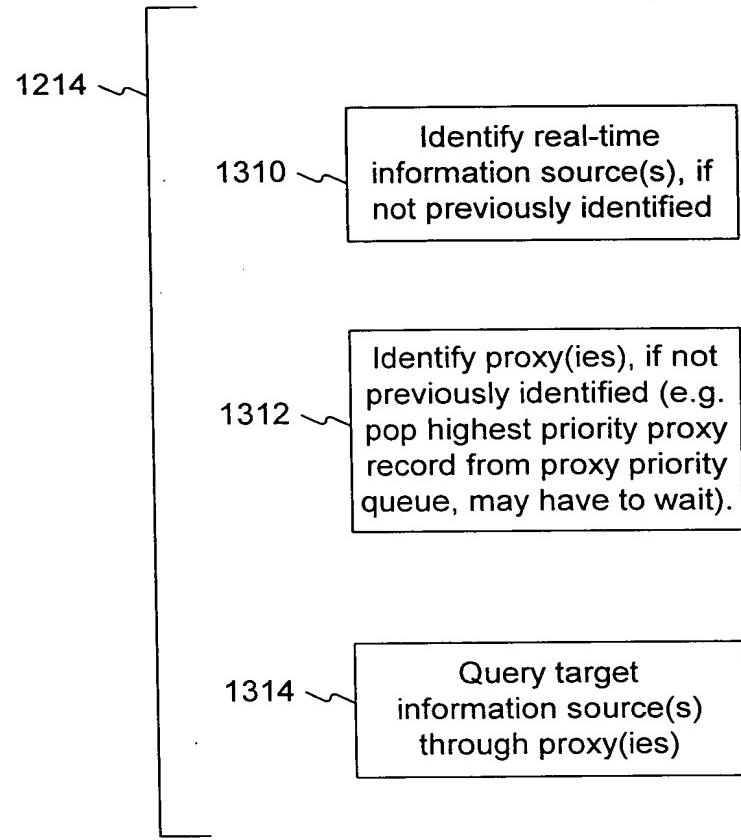
FIG. 12C



**FIG. 13A**

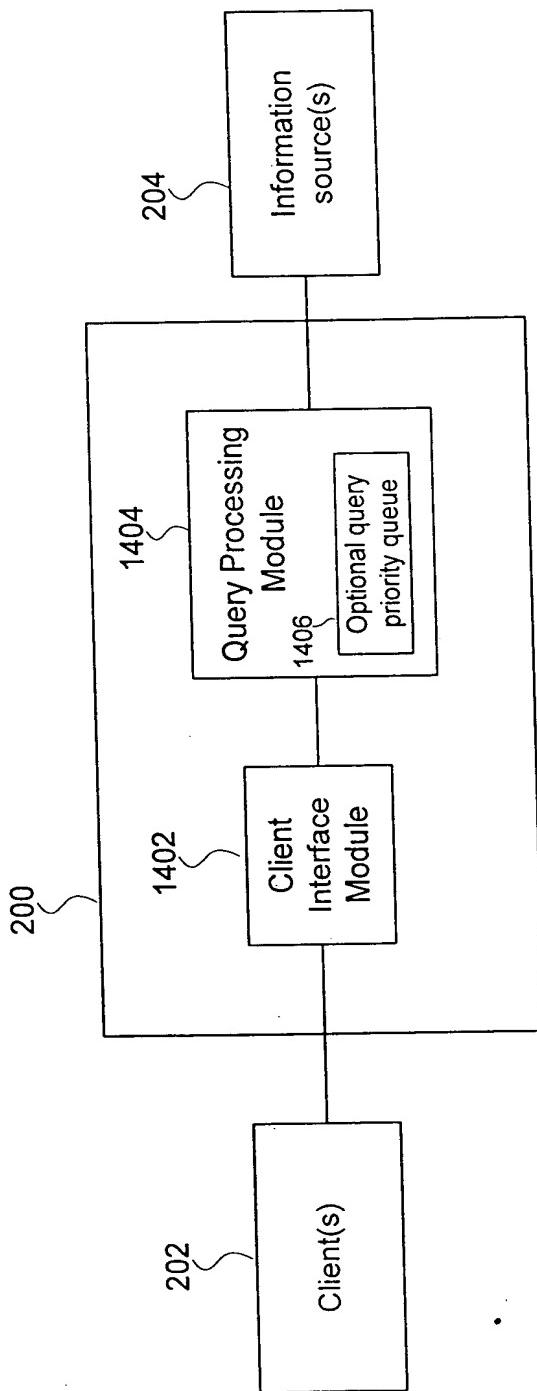


**FIG. 13B**



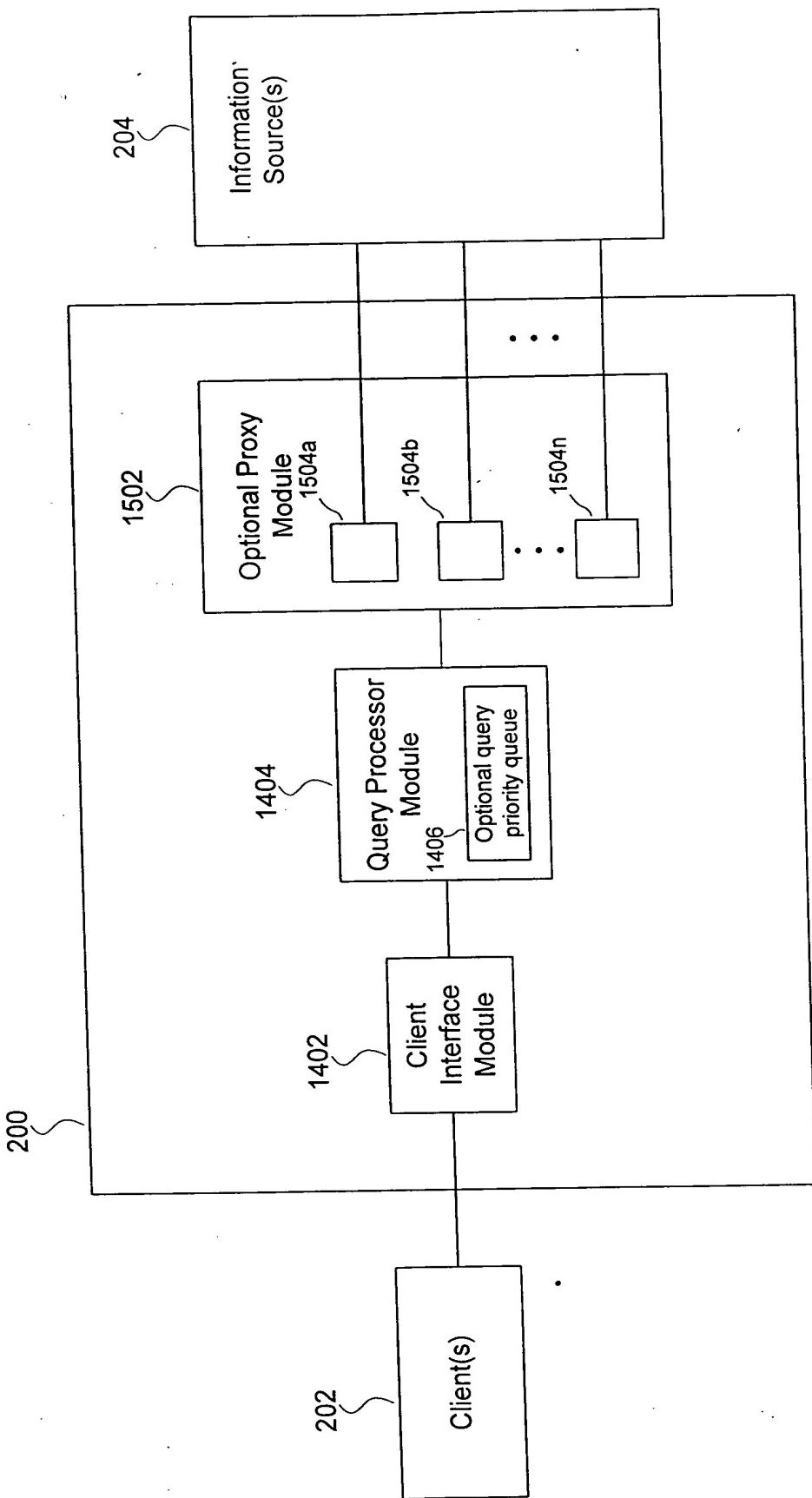
**FIG. 13C**

**FIG. 14**

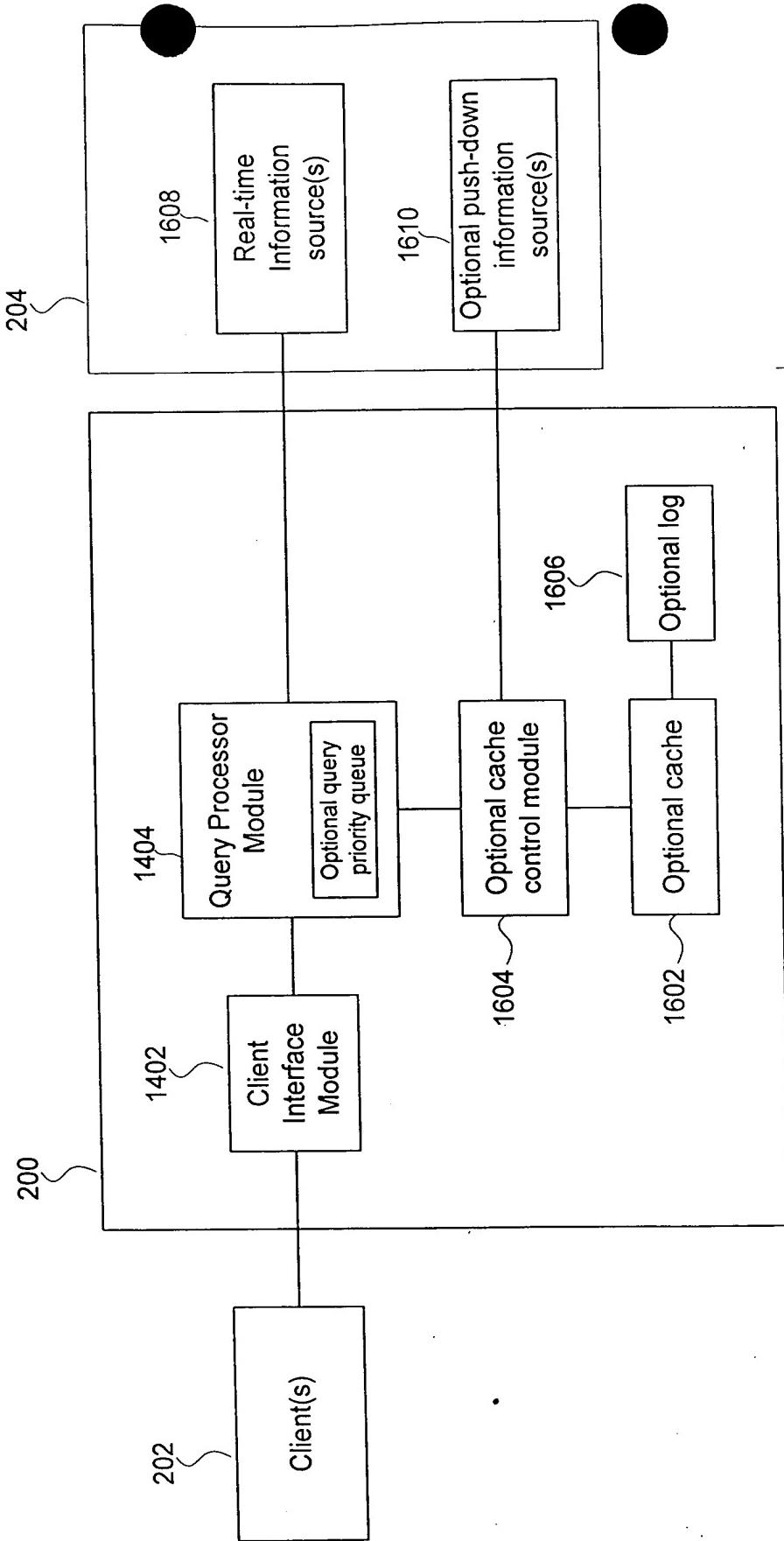


**FIG. 15**

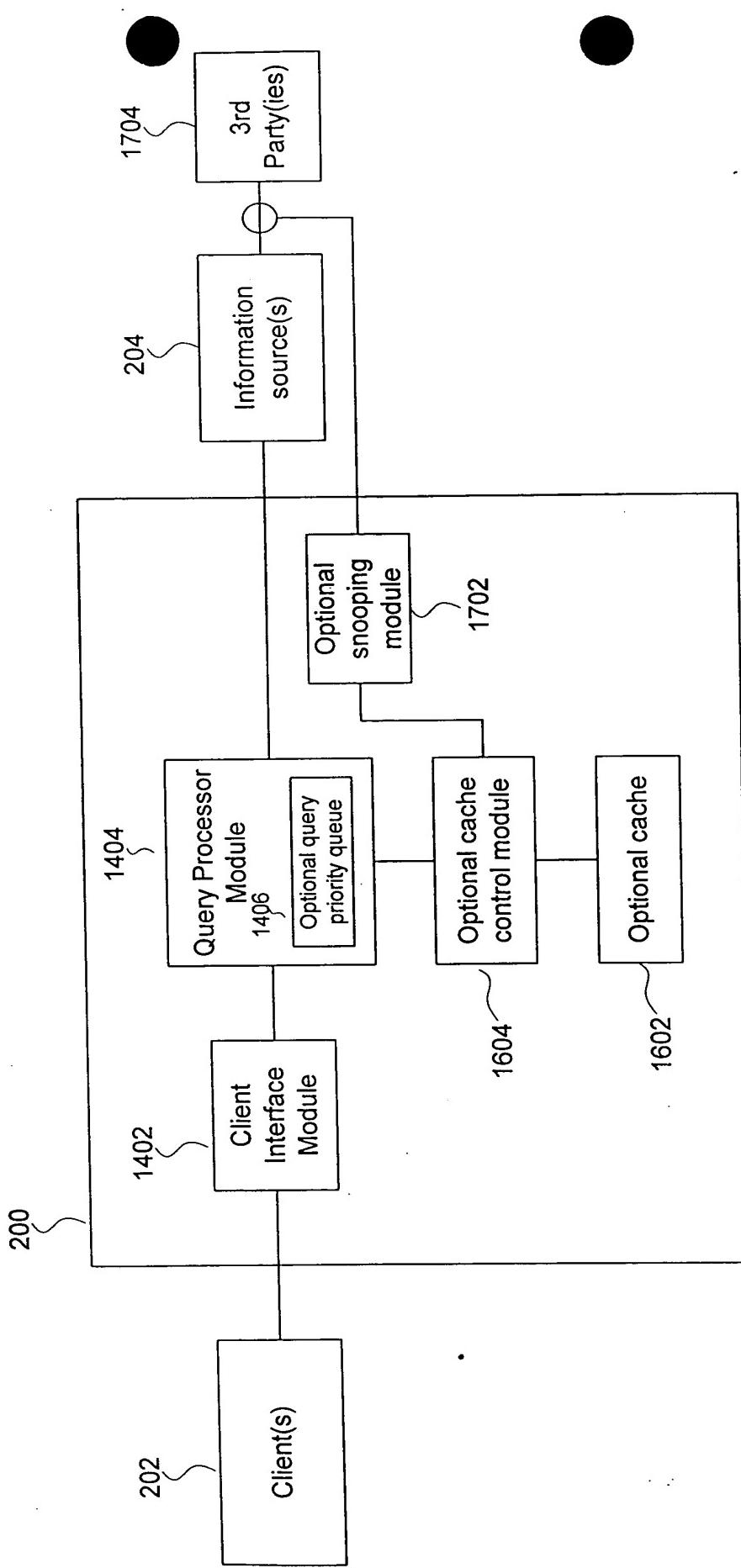
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**FIG. 16**

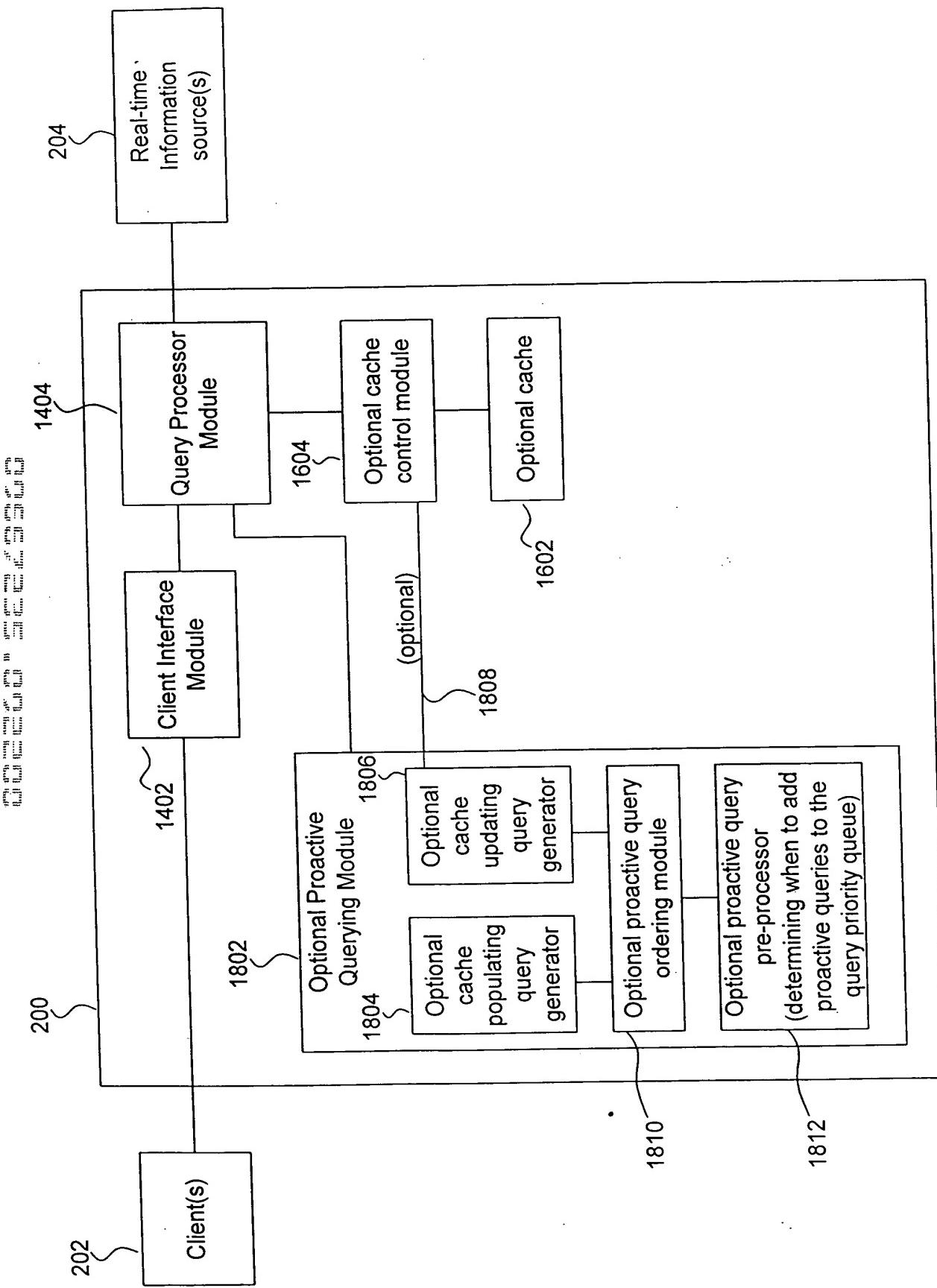


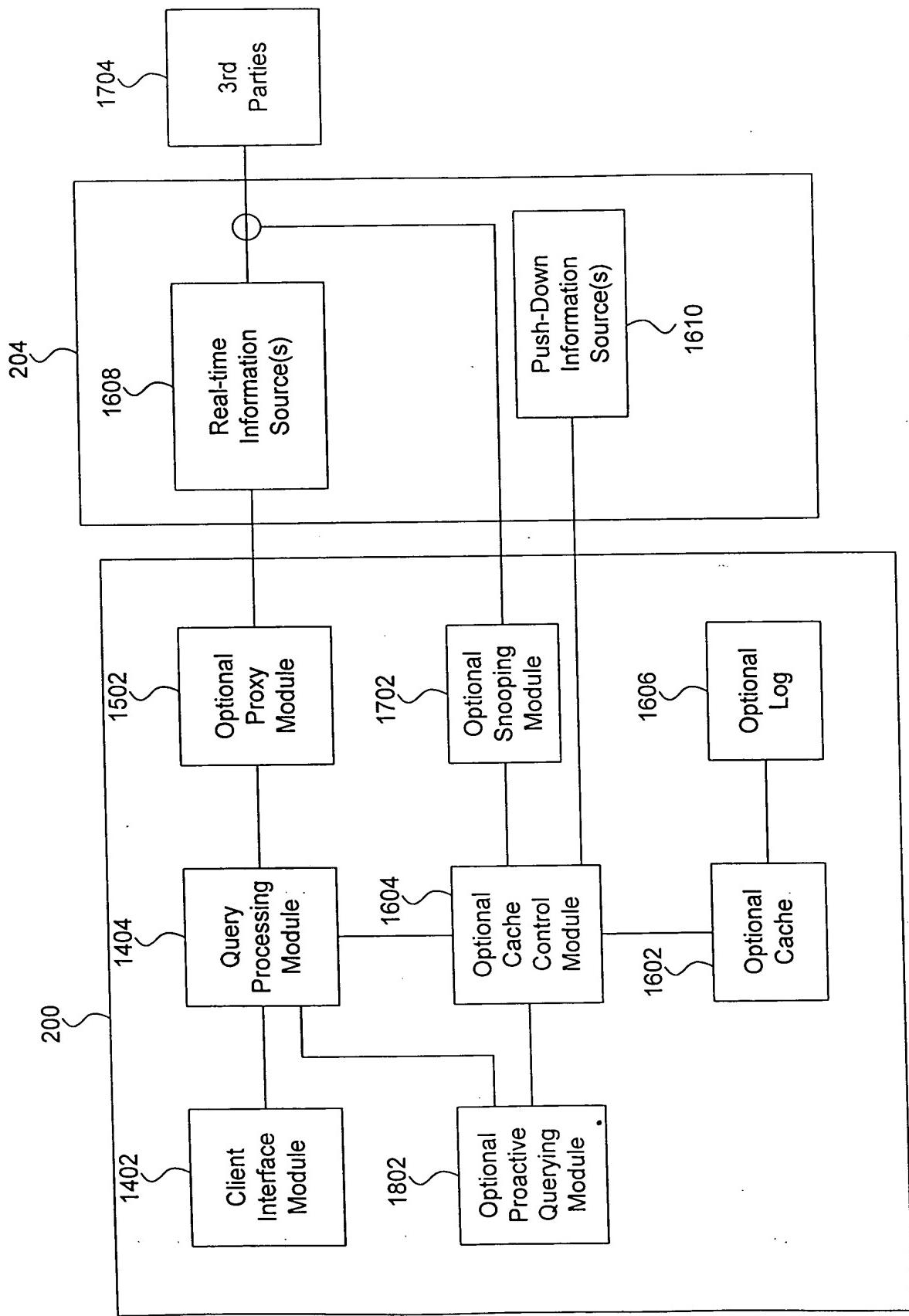
**FIG. 17**



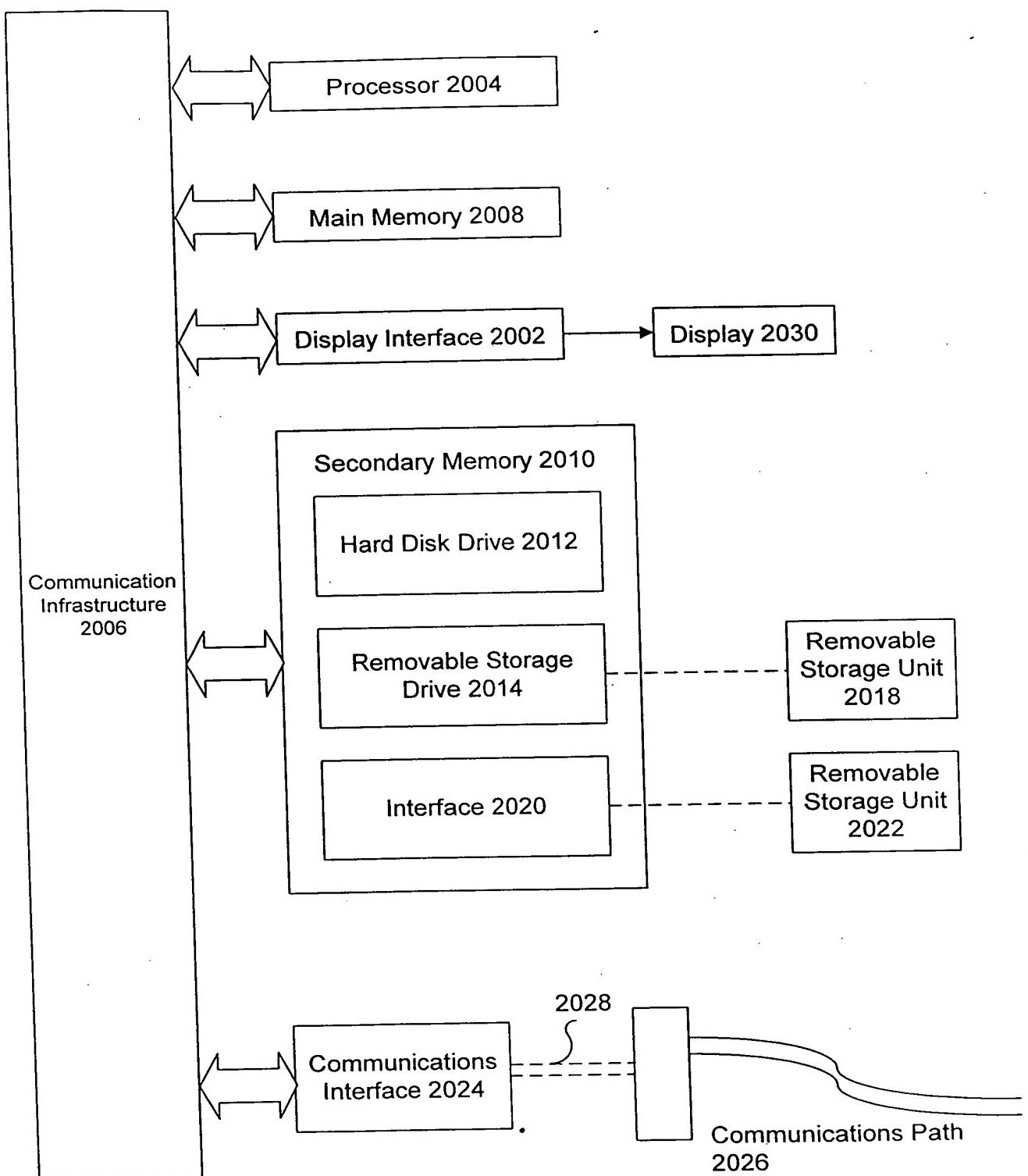
**FIG. 18**

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**FIG. 19**

2000



**FIG. 20**